

## PUBLIC BUILDING AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

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APRIL 12, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. YOUNG, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 154.]

*The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 154) to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to erect a public building in the city of Jacksonville, Fla., beg leave to report:*

Jacksonville, East Jacksonville, La Villa, and Springfield, though under separate municipal governments, constitute, in a business and commercial point of view, but one city, with a total population of about 17,000, and but one post-office.

During the fall and winter months this number is increased by many thousands by the transient people who make Jacksonville and vicinity a winter resort.

The Federal courts are held here, and are usually in session about four months in a year. These courts are held in a building wholly unsuitable for the transaction of judicial business, and their records, including valuable Spanish archives, the records of the custom-house and internal-revenue office are constantly exposed to destruction by fire, there being no fire-proof vault for their safe-keeping.

The Government pays for rooms for its public business an annual rent of \$3,080, which must soon be considerably increased by the growth of the city.

The post-office at Jacksonville is a distributing office for the entire State; and the people who make Florida a winter resort, estimated from 30,000 to 50,000 annually, and who move from place to place, remaining but a short time in each, largely increase the business of the post-office, and make it a very important one for the whole country.

This post-office necessarily requires very spacious accommodations to properly and safely transact its constantly increasing volume of business.

It has not such accommodations now, and it is believed they cannot be obtained without the construction of a public building, or a building erected for that purpose.

The net revenue of the post-office the last fiscal year was ———, and a large volume of money-order business is transacted.

Jacksonville is the leading commercial and business city of the State, and apparently will continue to be.

The Saint John's River upon which it is located is navigable for large steamers 230 miles, and for a smaller class of steamers 435 miles. Its tributaries are navigable for 450 miles, making a total of 885 miles of navigable waters, upon which there are seventy-four steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 8,168 tons, valued at \$2,042,000. The city also has 865 miles of railroad feeders now in operation, and more under construction.

Your committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill.

